AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Whole No. 2074 — Tuesday, January 9, 1951 — Vol. 41, No. 2

Green Backs Truman Call For Health Insurance

Meany Urges High Wages For All Latin America

Tells ICFTU Western Hemisphere Meeting That U. S. Wage Earners Want Prosperous, Industrialized Nations South of Border

Mexico City.—U. S. wage earners want high wage standards, strong national economies and advanced social and labor legislation for all of America's Good Neighbor countries in Latin and South America.

AFL Secretary - Treasurer George Meany delivered that message to the Western Hemisphere regional meeting of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions on behalf of the entire United States delegation from the American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations, United Mine Workers and railroad brotherhoods.

Mr. Meany spoke in response to the welcoming address of President Miguel Aleman and Latin American trade unionists at the opening of the session called to establish a regional ICFTU organization similar to that set up for Europe last November. Other ICFTU regional working groups will be established for Africa and Asia.

"Organized labor in the United States is deeply concerned with the economic situation in Latin America," Mr. Meany said.

"We have a specific interest in the welfare of all the wage earners in the countries of the Western Hemisphere because, in the long run, the outcome of their struggle for better living conditions must affect our standards which we have obtained after long years of hard fight and sacrifice.

"We still have a long way to go. Many are the areas in our country where the people are ill-clothed, ill-fed and ill-housed.

"Furthermore, we recognize that the maintenance of low wages in Latin America is in effect an attempt to depress living standards in the United States. The answer to ITFU is for the workers of the Western Hemisphere to get together, closer than we have been in the past, pool our experiences, exchange information, plan concerted actions.

"This solidarity will be especially beneficial in those instances where the workers in Latin America are opposed by the power of United States corporations. As we are now engaged to fight their attempts to exploit the workers of the United States, we are equally determined to fight their attempts to exploit the workers of Latin America."

Mr. Meany made these further points:

1. The industrialization of Latin America, with all that this general term implies, both in the field of industrial development and agricultural production, is a necessary condition for the future economic well-being of our own country.

2. Any industrialization must be accompanied by a gradual but steady increase in wages.

3. Greater technical skill will be needed.

4. Sufficient capital investment must be secured.

Mr. Meany said in part:

"When the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions was organized in London 13 months ago, it coined a slogan—'Bread, Freedom and Peace'—which symbolizes man's desire for the survival of our civilization and provides a platform on which all men of clear vision and good will can unite. This message of the ICFTU has traveled fast to all parts of the world.

"The labor movement of North America has sought for years to forge a link of cooperative relationship with our sisters and brothers south of the Rio Grande. We now hope, through the establishment of a regional branch of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions at this meeting, to expand the work started by the Inter-American Confederation of Workers and to achieve even greater effectiveness and unity by joining forces with all other democratic trade unions of the New World.

"The major task now confronting the people of Latin America is how to realize their long cherished hope of industrialization of their respective countries. A lot of people are under the mistaken impression that the wage earners of the United States have no interest in promoting the industrialization of our sister Latin American countries. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"Long ago we realized that no country can successfully defend its prosperity if that country is surrounded by areas of economic depression where the standard of living is low and the purchasing power is practically nil.

"In conclusion, I wish to emphasize and repeat the statement made by the spokesman of the United States delegation at the Lima, Peru, Inter-American labor conference in January 1948, and reaffirmed at the Havana CIT convention in September 1949. It is as timely today as it was then—and it still represents our inter-American policy:

"We want a democratic inter-Americanism without imperialism. We want better living and working conditions for the people—for all the people—of the Western Hemisphere. We want the advancement of social justice and the protection of the rights of labor. We want democracy strengthened and extended. We want to see, in our own time, the four freedoms of the Atlantic Charter become a living reality. We want to see our America, the New World, become the unconquerable fortress of human rights, social progress and Christian civilization."

Romualdi Predicts Successful Parley

Washington.—Serafino Romualdi, AFL Latin America representative, secretary of the Inter-American Confederation of Workers (CIT), predicted the Mexico City meeting of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions "will be a huge success" on the basis of preliminary arrangements made for the session.

Before departing for Mexico City, Mr. Romualdi paid tribute to the Mexican worker and government organizations which arranged the Jan. 8-13 meeting.

NEW SENATE LEADER.—Washington.—Sen. Ernest W. McFarland of Arizona (left), new Democratic leader of the Senate succeeding Sen. Scott Lucas, is congratulated by Vice President Alben W. Barkley as new 82d Congress opens.

Truman Asks Price-Wage Law Change, Health Insurance, Aid to Education

Washington.—President Truman asked Congress to build up the military might of the free world and to strengthen the free public schools, social insurance system and health resources of the United States at the same time.

These were included in Mr. Truman's 10-point legislative program laid before the 82d Congress in his State of the Union message on Jan. 8 which AFL President William Green described as "a call to service on the part of all the people of the United States."

President Truman warned Russia that "we will fight, if fight we must, to keep our freedom." He called for:

1. Adequate military appropriations.
2. Selective Service extension.
3. Military and economic aid to help build the strength of the free world.
4. Revision and extension of authority to expand production and to stabilize prices, wages and rents.
5. Improved agricultural laws.
6. Improvement of our labor laws to help provide stable labor-management relations and to make sure that we have steady production in this emergency.
7. Housing and training of defense workers and the full use of all our manpower resources.
8. Means for increasing the supply of doctors, nurses and other trained medical personnel critically needed for the defense effort.
9. Aid to the states to meet the most urgent needs of our elementary and secondary schools.
10. A major increase in taxes.

Mr. Truman did not call for outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley law but he is expected to spell out how the labor laws can be improved in a special message later. Discussing "measures which our country will need for the long pull" Mr. Truman said:

"To take just one example—we need to continue and complete the work of rounding out our system of social insurance. We still need to improve our protection against unemployment and old age. We still need to provide insurance against loss of earnings through sickness, and against the high costs of modern medical care."

REJECT DEAL

Washington.—The big 4 non-operating railroad brotherhoods were due to return here Jan. 15 for further negotiations on wages.

General chairmen of the Trainmen, Engineers, Conductors and Firemen rejected the 3-year pact providing wage increases up to 23 cents an hour reached at the White House just before Christmas.

You're So Right, Mr. Stokes

Washington.—Tom Stokes, syndicated columnist, called the action of Republicans and Dixiecrats in restoring the House Rules Committee's power to pigeonhole legislation "a smacking blow to democracy."

He remarked that such reactionary conduct on the Republican-controlled 80th Congress had helped in the reelection of President Truman in 1948.

"Labor unions told the story to their members through their union newspapers, as they are telling now of repeal of the 21-day rule and its meaning.

"This is not very helpful to Republicans in their effort to win back labor votes."

MACHINISTS REJOIN AFL.—Washington.—Eric Peterson (left), secretary-treasurer International Association of Machinists, presents check for $15,135.90 to AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany in payment of per capita dues on 50,000 Machinist members for January, carrying out the referendum mandate of what had been the nation's largest independent union to reaffiliate with the AFL.

AFL President States AMA Can't Endanger National Security

Washington.—AFL President William Green appraised President Truman's State of the Union message to the 82d Congress as "a call to service on the part of all the people of the United States."

"The 8 million members of the American Federation of Labor and their families particularly welcome the President's emphasis on the need to shore up our health defenses and to strengthen our democratic system of social insurance," Mr. Green said.

President Truman handed Congress a 10-point legislative program for revision of the price-wage control law to make it workable; improved labor laws; military and economic aid for the free world; increased taxes and military appropriations, housing for defense workers, increased supply of doctors.

"We are still need to provide insurance against loss of earnings through sickness and against the high costs of modern medical care," Mr. Truman said.

Mr. Green said that "labor will respond in full measure" to Mr. Truman's call. He said further:

"We firmly hope and believe that Congress will, in response to the President's recommendation, work out a price-wage stabilization and production program which will be acceptable to labor.

"The AFL supports the President's call for federal funds to train more doctors, dentists, nurses and other gravely needed health professionals. This nation, in the last war, faced critical shortages of doctors. We must not repeat that mistake. The grave possibility of attacks against our cities by atomic bombs, germ warfare, and other terrible weapons, makes it imperative that we have an adequate supply of doctors.

"The deans of our medical schools have warned that unless such federal aid as requested by the President is forthcoming, their schools face a crisis that will cripple our national health defense.

"We urge Congress to continue its bipartisan action, begun in the last Congress, to pass a federal-aid-to-medical-education bill. The single obstructing road block—the American Medical Association—must not be allowed to jeopardize national security.

"We also wholeheartedly support the President's calls for insurance to protect against the loss of earnings through sickness and against the high costs of modern medical care. Our people are convinced that the way to combat communism's propaganda is by eliminating the insecurity through which it thrives.

"This Congress can set an example to the world of democracy's capacity to meet the needs of our people without resort to socialized medicine. It can do this by extending our tested method of social security to insure against the unexpected costs of illness. Through national health insurance our people know that they can secure the benefits of modern medical care through the doctors of their choice.

"The President outlined a production drive just as urgent and intense as during World War II. Plugging the leaks and waste in our manpower supply caused by preventable illness is just as important as increased working hours and plant capacity. As this nation becomes once again the arsenal of democracy, we cannot afford the reckless drain of 4 to 4 million man-hours lost each year through bad health. We cannot afford to have millions of our young men rejected for military service because of remediable illness and defects."

JOHN NOBLE DIES

Toronto, Can.—John Noble, AFL organizer since 1933 and prior to that time an official of Local 636 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, died Dec. 29, 1950.

Buy Independence Bonds.

State Federations Seek Disability Insurance Laws

Turn to '51 Legislatures Since Congress Killed Federal Provision

Washington.—State Federations of Labor in many of the 64 states whose legislatures meet this year are seeking enactment of laws providing temporary disability insurance.

The drive in the states has been made necessary and urgent by refusal of the 81st Congress to incorporate such a plan in the Social Security Act amendments passed last year.

The House had written temporary disability clauses into the amendments in 1949 but the American Medical Association, together with the insurance and other reactionary big business lobbies, persuaded the Senate to knock out these provisions.

The Republican - Dixiecrats who made up the bulk of the House-Senate conferees on the final measure stood firm for deleting the disability plan, which would have paid weekly benefits to workers temporarily unable to work because of illness.

Without a national system, the only recourse is to the state legislatures. Four have already put into effect such plans.

Besides disability insurance, state federations are seeking many oter legislative improvements in the 1951 legislatures. The California Federation is backing 150 and the New Jersey Federation, 50 different bills.

Connecticut Federation has established a new Republican Labor Committee to work with the Republican House in that legislature for enactment of labor-supported bills.

HERE LIES SAMUEL GOMPERS.—New York.—William Collins, AFL regional director for New York, lays wreaths of AFL Executive Council and Westchester Federation of Labor on grave of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of AFL, at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Westchester County, on 26th anniversary of Mr. Gompers' death, Dec. 13, 1950. The 101st anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth will be observed on Jan. 27.

California Seeks $40 Weekly Payment For Unemployment in 1951 Legislature

By JOHN F. HENNING
San Francisco Correspondent, AFL News Service

San Francisco.—The California State Federation of Labor Executive Council is backing a legislative program in the 1951 state legislature to raise benefits payable under unemployment and disability insurance and workmen's compensation to a maximum $40 weekly.

C. J. Haggerty, executive officer of the million-member state AFL, announced that some 120 bills would be introduced by the federation.

Mr. Haggerty said that 81 measures would seek increased benefits and extended coverage of unemployment insurance, disability insurance, and workmen's compensation. Eighteen bills will advocate general changes in the state labor code.

Highlighting the AFL proposals will be efforts to obtain a $40 maximum weekly benefit for unemployment and disability insurance and workmen's compensation; extension of present state social security legislation to agricultural workers; creation of a Fair Employment Practices Commission; and a $1.25 minimum wage.

The federation will also submit a state rent control bill if adequate federal action is not taken. The California AFL legislative program is developed through convention action and is directed by Mr. Haggerty as legislative representative.

On the organization front, a mass meeting of the executive councils of all unions affiliated with the Metal Trades Council of Southern California was held December 6 in the Los Angeles Labor Temple to reactivate the AFL organizing drive among southern California metal workers.

Financial and organizational assistance were pledged by the national AFL, state Federation of Labor, the Los Angeles Central Labor Council, the Los Angeles Building Trades Council, and various affected locals.

The stepped-up campaign will carry the AFL message into one of the 3 largest industrial areas in the nation. The 1950 Houston convention of the AFL requested full cooperation from all affiliates in recognition of the support already being extended by the national AFL, the State Federation of Labor, and Metal Trades Department.

The California Building and Construction Trades Council also met in early December, holding its 35th convention in the San Francisco Building Trades Temple, Dec. 7, 8 and 9.

President Frank A. Lawrence presided over the 3-day session which concentrated on legislative and organizational goals.

Continuing its emphasis on labor education, the State Federation of Labor announced on December 8 that it would inaugurate a scholarship plan for deserving high school students.

Scholarships will be given high school students planning to attend college and will be made on the basis of the candidate's score in a special examination and on his 4-year academic record. The contest will be open to any student regardless of sex, creed, or race. Three awards of $500 each will be made by the federation and the winners may select schools of their choice.

SEEK REPEAL

Nashville, Tenn.—The Tennessee State Federation of Labor has joined with other labor groups to seek repeal of Tennessee's "open shop" law in the 1951 legislature.

Repeal of this union-busting measure is one of the 11 points of a legislative program favored by the combined labor groups.

Statewide free text books and jury service for women are among the others.

N.J. Wants Repeal Of Antistrike Law

Newark, N. J.—The New Jersey Federation of Labor is seeking repeal of the state's so-called "antistrike law" in the 1951 state legislatures.

A repealer is one of 50 bills planned by the state AFL.

The federation's legislative representatives, Louis P. Marciante, state AFL president, and Vincent J. Murphy, secretary-treasurer, said a large number of the bills would deal with modification features pertaining to unemployment compensation, temporary disability and workmen's compensation.

A bill will be introduced calling for the repeal of the state cigarette tax.

Bills also will be introduced to cover 11 proposed modifications in the State Unemployment Compensation Act and a similar number in the Temporary Disability Insurance Act. In both acts, the AFL advocates increasing maximum weekly benefit rates from the present $26 per week, to $40. It asks also that there be a reinstatement of the merit rating system for employers which existed before 1949.

The state AFL also will seek a sweeping general revision of the Workmen's Compensation law "so as to conform with present-day advances and to modernize the act." It wishes to have weekly benefits increased to $40 per week, provide employes with free choice of physicians, have "casual employes" included among possible beneficiaries, take stringent measures to prevent failure to provide proper safeguards, and place the dread diseases of silicosis and asbestosis on the same compensable status as other occupational diseases.

BOOST NEW ENGLAND.—Boston.—Kenneth Kelley (left), Secretary-Treasurer Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, boosts economic assets of New England to Joseph L. Fisher, representing President Truman's Council of Economic advisers at first meeting of Committee of New England of the National Planning Association. Mr. Kelley is one of labor members of committee making 15-months study of effect of Federal Government policies on New England economy.

Lodge on Spot In Connecticut

Bridgeport, Conn.—The Connecticut State Federation of Labor is optimistic about its program in the 1951 state legislature.

"The House of Representatives is in the Republican column; the Senate in the Democratic column," the Connecticut AFL Bulletin points out. "Governor Lodge will have an opportunity to show us whether or not he was sincere in advocating social legislation that would help the working men and women in the state of Connecticut."

The state AFL has created for the first time a Republican labor committee to try to get labor legislation through the GOP House of Representatives.

The state AFL will work to liberalize workmen's compensation up to $40 a week; unemployment compensation up to $36 per week, and enactment of a temporary disability insurance law.

Other bills will ask employment tenure for teachers, an apprenticeship training course, and the elimination of discrimination in employment because of age, particularly in the 45-65-year group.

ESA to Establish 13 Regional Offices

Washington.—The Economic Stabilization Agency has chosen 13 cities as headquarters for regional field offices.

In addition, there will be 2 other offices for wage stabilization established at Los Angeles and Detroit.

The 13 regional headquarters, and the states to be served, will be:

Boston—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island.

New York City—New York and New Jersey.

Philadelphia — Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Richmond — Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, District of Columbia and North Carolina.

Atlanta—Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

Cleveland — Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky.

Chicago—Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana.

Minneapolis—Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana.

Kansas City—Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas.

Dallas — Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana.

Denver—Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico.

San Francisco—California, Nevada, Arizona.

Seattle—Oregon, Idaho, Washington.

Lists Labor Force New England Asset

Boston.—New England's labor force is its greatest asset.

Dr. Alfred C. Neal, member of the research advisory committee of the Committee of New England of the National Planning Committee, listed the labor force as No. 1 asset in a survey of New England's problems and opportunities.

New England workers, he said, are well educated; they represent a diversity of skills, are accustomed to industrial work, and have about the best labor relations record in the country.

Dr. Neal, who is vice-president and research director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, spoke at the organization meeting of the Committee of New England. The committee represents a cross section of business, labor, education and economic interests in the 6-state area.

AFL members include Kenneth Kelley, secretary-treasurer Massachusetts Federation of Labor; Joseph Rourke, secretary-treasurer Connecticut Federation of Labor, and Walter G. O'Donnell, Westport, Conn., American Federation of Teachers.

The committee has begun a 15-month study of the effect of federal government policies on New England's economy.

Woll Reelected To CARE Office

New York.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll was reelected vice president of CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe Inc.).

Mr. Woll's reelection to his sixth consecutive term as CARE vice president took place at the recent annual meeting of CARE's Board of Directors, on which he has been representing the AFL's relief arm, the Labor League for Human Rights, ever since the incorporation of CARE in November 1945 as a nonprofit, government approved cooperative relief agency. The AFL Labor League for Human Rights is one of the 26 member agencies of CARE.

Through the League $1 million in CARE package aid has been sent on behalf of American labor to trade union families overseas.

Buy union made goods and services.

Washington Wants Stiffer Safety Code

Seattle, Wash. — The Washington Federation of Labor is asking the 1951 legislature to stiffen penalties for violations of the State Safety Code and to authorize time off for voting among the long list of bills making up the federation's 1951 legislative program.

Other bills to be introduced on behalf of the federation include liberalization of the public employes legislation, teacher tenure law, graduated net income tax, liberalized unemployment and workmen's compensation laws.

The federation is holding off action this session on disability compensation legislation in view of the Nov. 7 defeat of a referendum on the issue.

TEXAS SESSION

Austin, Tex.—The Texas Federation of Labor expects that the 1951 state legislature may run longer than the record 6-month's session of 1949.

Paul C. Sparks, executive secretary, Texas state federation, says "the general picture of the 52d Legislature's attitude is considered to be conservative."

The twin problems of revenue and taxation plus redistricting of the state to provide one more congressman in Washington are apt to cause long debates.

AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
Washington, D. C.
Published Tuesday With Supplement on Friday

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1108, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1933.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

Distributed Free to Bonafide Labor Press

Whole No. 2074 TUESDAY, JAN. 9, 1951 Vol. 41, No. 2

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